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REMARKS

The above-listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the final Office Action and subsequent Advisory Action set forth above. This Response places the application in condition for allowance, and entry of this Response and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 12 and 31 are amended to more clearly define the claimed invention, and the amendments in no way diminish the scope of the claims. No new matter is introduced into the application by the claim amendments. Claims 6 and 23 are cancelled in order to expedite prosecution. The cancellation of claims 6 and 23 does not signify a surrender of claim scope. After entry of this Response, claims 5, 7-22, 24-26, and 31-38 are pending.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner expressed a concern regarding claims 32-34, which depend from claim 31. Claim 31 is directed to a process for producing a pharmaceutical dosage unit in tablet form. The process includes the steps of forming a fluidized-bed of potassium chloride crystals, and spraying the potassium chloride crystals with a mixture *consisting of* ethylcellulose, alcohol and water to coat the crystals. A plurality of ethylcellulose-coated granules is subsequently compressed into a tablet.

The language of claim 31 indicates a process that can clearly be used to make tablets that contain ingredients other than ethylcellulose and potassium chloride. Only one "consisting of" phrase appears in claim 31, indicating a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol, and water in step (ii). When a phrase such as "consisting of" appears in a clause of the body of a claim, rather than immediately following the preamble, the phrase limits only the element set forth in that clause; other elements are not excluded from the claim as a whole. See M.P.E.P. § 2111.03; see also *Mannesmann Demag Corp. v. Engineered Metal Products Co.*, 793 F.2d 1279 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Dependent claims 32-34 recite additional features that do *not* pertain to the recited mixture. Claim 32 recites that the *tablet* further comprises a compression aid and a disintegrant. Claim 33 depends from claim 32, and recites that the compression aid comprises microcrystalline cellulose, and the disintegrant comprises croscarmellose sodium. Claim 34 recites that the

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resulting *tablet* comprises, by weight, about 75.3% potassium chloride, about 15.5% ethylcellulose, about 8.7% microcrystalline cellulose, and about 0.5% croscarmellose sodium.

Claims 32-34 properly depend from allowable independent claim 31, and are in condition for allowance.

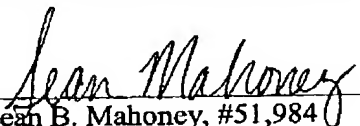
Conclusion

All pending claims are in condition for allowance. No outstanding rejections remain. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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